

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00692 120124Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 SCA-01 /019 W

-----120331Z 030137 /66

R 111113Z APR 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 0692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN CH

SUBJECT: U.S. TRAVELERS CHECKS IN PRC

REF: PEKING 648

1. DESPITE PROMINENT NOTICE IN PEKING HOTEL ANNOUNCING THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELERS CHECKS CAN NO LONGER BE CASHED (REFTEL), BANK OF CHINA PERSONNEL IN HOTEL HAVE BEEN ROUTINELY ACCEPTING AMEX CHECKS IN THE LAST WEEK. AT MOST, VISITORS WERE GIVEN ONLY MILD ADMONITION NOT TO BRING AMEX CHECKS TO PRC; FREQUENTLY THEY WERE CASHED WITHOUT QUESTION. ALTHOUGH ONE BUSINESSMAN WAS TOLLD HE "MIGHT NOT" BE ABLE TO CASH HIS CHECKS IN SHANGHAI, A RECENT TRAVELER FROM THERE SAID HE USED AMEX WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.
2. AS FOR FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK TRAVELERS CHECKS, TWO WEEKS AGO A VISITOR WAS TOLD BY THE BANK OF CHINA AT THE BORDER AT SHUMCHUN THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THEY CASH HIS FNCB CHECKS, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO OTHER FUNDS WITH HIM. THE TRAVELER THEN PROCEEDED TO CANTON WHERE, WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, THE CHECKS WERE CASHED.

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3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE PRC IS CONTINUING ITS PRAGMATIC POLICY OF CASHING AMEX AND FNCB CHECKS WHILE PUBLICLY MAINTAINING THAT IT WILL HAVE NO RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS OR FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. HOWEVER, THE PRC HAS ANTAGONIZED NUMEROUS VISITORS WHO, NOT HAVING BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE BAN BEFORE COMING TO THE PRC, NEVERTHELESS HAVE BEEN TREATED TO LECTURES

AND REPRIMANDS WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO CASH THE CHECKS.  
WE RECOMMEND THAT VISITORS TO THE PRC CONTINUE TO BE  
ADVISED TO BRING TRAVELERS CHECKS OTHER THAN AMERICAN  
EXPRESS AND CITIBANK.  
GATES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, CHECKS (MONEY)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Sent Date:** 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PEKING00692  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770125-1158  
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**Message ID:** bcb62fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PEKING 648  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2841692  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. TRAVELERS CHECKS IN PRC  
**TAGS:** EFIN, CH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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